



OCT 30–NOV 7 2009

NEWS RELEASE

AFI FEST 2009 PRESENTED BY AUDI ANNOUNCES

NEW LIGHTS COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

“FISH TANK” AND “WOMAN WITHOUT PIANO”

SHARE HONOR

SPECIAL JURY MENTION GOES TO “AJAMI”

LOS ANGELES (November 5, 2009)—AFI FEST 2009 presented by Audi tonight announced Andrea Arnold’s FISH TANK and Javier Rebello’s WOMAN WITHOUT PIANO as the joint winners of the inaugural AFI FEST New Lights Competition. A Special Jury Mention went to Scandar Copti’s and Yaron Shani’s AJAMI. The New Lights Competition was created to acknowledge and honor vital, groundbreaking films by first and second time feature filmmakers from around the world.

The winners were announced at AFI FEST’s reception in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel following the Closing Night Gala presentation of Tom Ford’s A SINGLE MAN at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre. The star-studded event included appearances by the director and the film’s stars Colin Firth, Ginnifer Goodwin, Nicholas Hoult, Matthew Goode, and Ryan Simpkins as well as celebrity guests Cindy Crawford and Randy Gerber, Robert Evans, Harry Hamilin and Lisa Rinna, Kenny Ortega, Brett Ratner, and Rita Wilson among others.

The awards were presented by actress and filmmaker Angela Bassett, who chaired the jury, following an introduction of her fellow jury members: fellow actress and filmmaker Julie Delpy, noted film journalist and author Bill Krohn, Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival (BAFICI) Artistic Director Sergio Wolf and Hong Kong filmmaker Yonfan. FISH TANK cast member Michael Fassbender was on hand to accept on behalf of the film.

AFI FEST Artistic Director Rose Kuo said, "The establishment of the AFI FEST New Lights Competition has been one of many highlights for this year's festival. Led by Angela Bassett, our jury enjoyed and deliberated over a truly outstanding group of films, and ultimately decided that the award should be shared by these two amazing works of art."

NEW LIGHTS COMPETITION AWARD WINNER

FISH TANK Cast: Michael Fassbender, Harry Treadaway, Katie Jarvis, Kierston Wareing DIR: Andrea Arnold PROD: Kees Kasander EXEC PROD: Christine Langan, David M. Thompson, Paul Trijbits *UK*

WOMAN WITHOUT PIANO (LA MUJER SIN PIANO) Cast: Jan Budar, Esperanza De la Vega, Tomás del Estal, Nadia de Santiago DIR: Javier Rebello EXEC PROD: Damián Paris, Stefan Schmitz, María Zamora *Spain/France*

SPECIAL JURY MENTION

AJAMI Cast: Fouad Habash, Nisrine Rihan, Elias Saba, Youssef Sahwani DIR: Scandar Copti, Yaron Shani PROD: Moshe Danon, Thanassis Karathanos EXEC PROD: James Richardson *Israel/Germany*

AFI FEST 2009 NEW LIGHTS COMPETITION JURY MEMBERS

ANGELA BASSETT

Angela Bassett trained at the Yale School of Drama before going on to appear on-and off-Broadway. Bassett's first breakout role in movies was in *BOYZ N THE HOOD* (1991). She earned the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Drama and NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Motion Picture for her portrayal of Tina Turner in the biopic *WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT* (1993). Among her other movies are: *MALCOLM X* (1992), *HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK* (1998), *MUSIC OF THE HEART* (1999), *WAITING TO EXHALE* (1995), and *AKEELAH AND THE BEE* (2006). Bassett joined the final season of *ER* (2008-2009) and will make her directorial debut with the film *UNITED STATES* (2010), adapted from Percival Everett's novel *Erasure*.

JULIE DELPY

Julie Delpy has made a name for herself as a director, actress, singer and writer in Europe and the US. She was recently nominated for an Academy Award as a writer (with co-writers Ethan Hawke and Richard Linklater) for *BEFORE SUNSET* (2004), a follow-up to *BEFORE SUNRISE* (1995). She also starred in both films. Delpy has worked with the esteemed directors Jean-Luc Godard on *DETECTIVE* (1985), Agnieszka Holland on *EUROPA EUROPA* (1990), Krzysztof Kieslowski on the *TROIS COULEURS* trilogy (1993, 1994, 1994), Roger Avary on *KILLING ZOE* (1993), Jim

Jarmusch on BROKEN FLOWERS (2005) and Lasse Hallström on THE HOAX (2006). Delpy made her directorial debut with the short film BLAH BLAH BLAH (1995). In 2007, she wrote, directed and starred in 2 DAYS IN PARIS.

BILL KROHN

Bill Krohn has been the Los Angeles correspondent for the French magazine Cahiers du cinema since 1978. In 1994 he co-directed, co-produced and co-wrote IT'S ALL TRUE: BASED ON AN UNFINISHED FILM BY ORSON WELLES for Paramount Pictures and Films Balenciaga, Paris. He is the author of the Hitchcock au travail/Hitchcock at Work (Cahiers du cinema/Phaidon) monograph; a monograph for Stanley Kubrick for Cahiers du cinema/Le Monde; and Luis Bunuel: Chimera (Taschen Books). He also edited Joe Dante et les Gremlins de Hollywood (Locarno/ Cahiers du cinema). He reviews films for The Economist and is completing Serial Killer Dreams for Reaktion Books, London.

SERGIO WOLF

Sergio Wolf is a critic, professor, screenwriter and filmmaker. He was a programmer at the Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival (BAFICI) from 2005 to 2007, and has been the artistic director of BAFICI since 2008. Wolf has written *Cine Argentino: La otra historia* (1992), *Cine/Literatura: Ritos de pasaje* (2001) and *Nuevo Cine Argentino* (2002). In addition, he wrote the screenplays for the Raúl Perrone films LA FELICIDAD (UN DÍA DE CAMPO) (1998) and ZAPADA (1999), Anahí Berneri's ENCARNACIÓN (2006) and POR TU CULPA (2008) and Inés de Oliveira Cézár's EXTRANJERA (2006). Wolf directed the films YO NO SE QUÉ ME HAN HECHO TUS OJOS (2003) and LAS ORILLAS (2007).

YONFAN

A true auteur of Asian cinema, PRINCE OF TEARS director Yonfan writes, directs and produces his own films. He also serves as art director for his projects. Born in Hunan, China, he moved to Taiwan with his parents in 1952. Yonfan spent his adolescent years in Taichung before moving to Hong Kong in 1965. Yonfan began directing his own features after working in movie distribution and as an acclaimed photographer. He has made 13 films. He first received international acclaim with BISHONEN (1998) at the 1999 Berlin International Film Festival. His next production, PEONY PAVILION, opened the 2001 Hong Kong International Film Festival and won the Best Actress Award at the Moscow Film Festival for Rie Miyazawa. It was voted one of the Ten Best Films by Time Magazine. He then worked on COLOR BLOSSOM (2004) starring Keiko Matsuzaka, Harisu and Theresa Cheung. He has just completed PRINCE OF TEARS, his first film shot in Taiwan.

AFI FEST 2009 OVERVIEW:

The first film festival of its size and magnitude to offer free tickets to all of its screenings, including Gala presentations, AFI FEST 2009 rolled out the red carpet with the highly anticipated North American Premiere of Wes Anderson's THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX on October 30. Starring the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Jason

Schwartzman, Bill Murray and Owen Wilson, the event featured appearances by Murray and Schwartzman as they joined Anderson for a rare West Coast premiere for one of his films.

Other highlights of the Festival included the Centerpiece screening of Terry Gilliam's THE IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS with Gilliam and AFI FEST Tribute subject Christopher Plummer in attendance, Gala screenings of Lee Daniels' PRECIOUS, BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE with the director and nearly the entire cast as well as executive producers Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry in attendance, EVERYBODY'S FINE with Robert DeNiro, Kate Beckinsale and Drew Barrymore on hand to support director Kirk Jones, and a Tribute to Viggo Mortensen preceding a screening of THE ROAD.

DigiFest opened its doors to the public, production design legend Bob Boyle – who turned 100 this year -- was celebrated with a tandem screening of Daniel Raim's documentary SOMETHING'S GONNA LIVE and a special 50th Anniversary screening of Alfred Hitchcock's classic NORTH BY NORTHWEST - including a conversation with cast members with Martin Landau and Eva Marie Saint that was moderated by director William Friedkin.

Additional attendees at AFI FEST 2009 included Paula Abdul, Judd Apatow, Mel B., Fairuza Balk, Mary J. Blige, Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon, Lily Cole, Jennifer Coolidge, Joe Dante, Charlize Theron, Eva Mendes, Ivan Reitman, Jamie Foxx, Brian Geraghty, Maggie Grace, Shawn Hatosy, Harmony Korine, Ali Landry, Samm Levine, Mario Lopez, Eva Longoria Parker, Paula Patton and Robin Thicke, Amanda Plummer, Sidney Poitier and his daughter Sydney Poitier, Corneliu Porimboiu, Sherri Shepherd, Mallika Sherawat, Gabourey Sidibe, Verne Troyer, Olivia Wilde, Shailene Woodley and Madeline and Yvonne Zima, and among others.

AFI FEST 2009 will conclude with two days of screenings sponsored by Moving Pictures Magazine at the Laemmle's Monica 4-plex, 1332 2nd Street, Santa Monica, as part of AFI FEST's alliance with the American Film Market. Those screening will be highlighted by the World Premiere of Agnieszka Wojtowicz-Vosloo's AFTER.LIFE starring Liam Neeson, Christina Ricci and Justin Long. The director, as well as Ricci and Long will attend the screening and participate in a Q&A.

Overall, AFI FEST 2009 showcased 67 features (54 narrative, 13 documentary) and 27 shorts for a total of 94 films representing 32 countries.

About AFI FEST

AFI is a national institute providing leadership in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media. Celebrating its 23rd year as a program of the American Film Institute, AFI FEST 2009 presented by Audi takes place October 30-November 7. Kicking off the awards season each year, AFI FEST offers a crucial avenue of exposure to the entertainment community, while providing appreciative audiences with a festive atmosphere and the very best of world film, right in the center of the film capital of the world.

The American Film Market (AFM), November 4-11, 2009, is the market partner of AFI FEST. Together, AFI FEST and AFM provide the only concurrent festival/market event in North America. AFI FEST is the only FIAPF-accredited film festival in the United States. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognizes AFI FEST as a qualifying festival for the Short Films category for the annual Academy Awards®.

Additional information about AFI FEST is available at AFI.com.

AFI PROJECT: 20/20 is an American Film Institute international initiative designed to enhance cultural exchange, understanding and collaboration through filmmakers and their films from the US and abroad. It is an unprecedented cultural diplomacy effort that is the only international filmmaker exchange supported by all of America's cultural agencies—National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)—and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

AFI FEST 2009 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines; Absolut Vodka; Little Black Dress Wines; Stella Artois; Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel; Mann Theatres; RR Donnelly; the Los Angeles Times; American Film Market (AFM); the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; the Department of Cultural Affairs; and the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency. AFI FEST is made possible in part by a grant from the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center. Entertainment Weekly is the Presenting Media Sponsor.

About the AFM

During AFM, the business of independent motion picture production and distribution—a truly collaborative process—reaches its peak every year, when more than 8,000 industry leaders converge in Santa Monica for eight days of deal-making, screenings, seminars, red carpet premieres, networking and parties. Participants come from over 70 countries and include acquisition and development executives, agents, attorneys, directors, distributors, festival directors, financiers, film commissioners, producers, writers, the world's press and all those who provide services to the motion picture industry.

Founded in 1981, the AFM has become the premier global marketplace where Hollywood's decision makers and trendsetters all gather under one roof. Unlike a film festival, the AFM is a marketplace where production and distribution deals are closed. In just eight days, more than \$800 million in deals will be sealed — on both completed films and those that haven't started shooting yet — making AFM the must-attend industry event.

The AFM is produced by the Independent Film & Television Alliance (IFTA), the trade association representing the world's producers and distributors of independent motion pictures and television programs. More information can be found at ifta-online.org/afm <<http://www.ifta-online.org/afm>>.

About Audi of America, Inc.

Audi of America Inc. and its 270 dealers offer a full line of German-engineered luxury vehicles. The Audi lineup is one of the freshest in the industry with 23 models, including 12 models launched during model years 2008 and 2009. Audi is among the most successful brands globally. Last year AUDI AG recorded its 12th consecutive record year for sales and profit

growth. Visit audiusa.com or audiusanews.com for more information regarding Audi vehicle and business issues.

###

CONTACT:

John Wildman
Head of Press & Public Relations
American Film Institute
323.600.3165
jwildman@afi.com